Understanding Sex Offenders: An Introductory Curriculum

Section 5: Etiological and Explanatory Theories

Examples of Single Factor Theories

- **Biological**
- **Behavioral**
- **Sociocultural**
- **Attachment/Intimacy**

Examples of Multiple Factor Theories

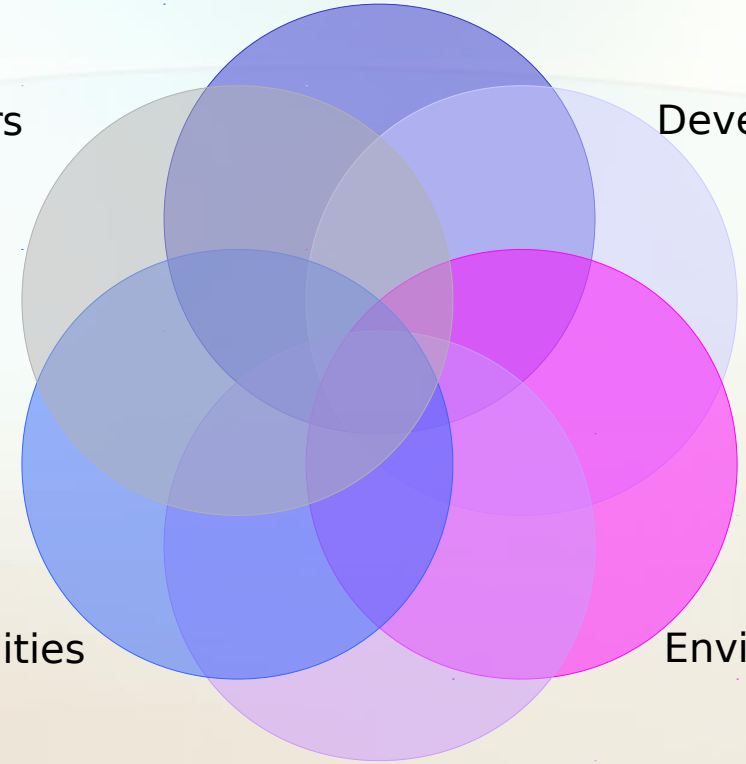
- **Integrated Theory**
- **Confluence Model**
- **Relapse Prevention**
- **Self-Regulation Model**
- **Pathways Model**

Integrated Theory

Biological influences

Situational factors

Developmental influences



Individual vulnerabilities

Environmental influences

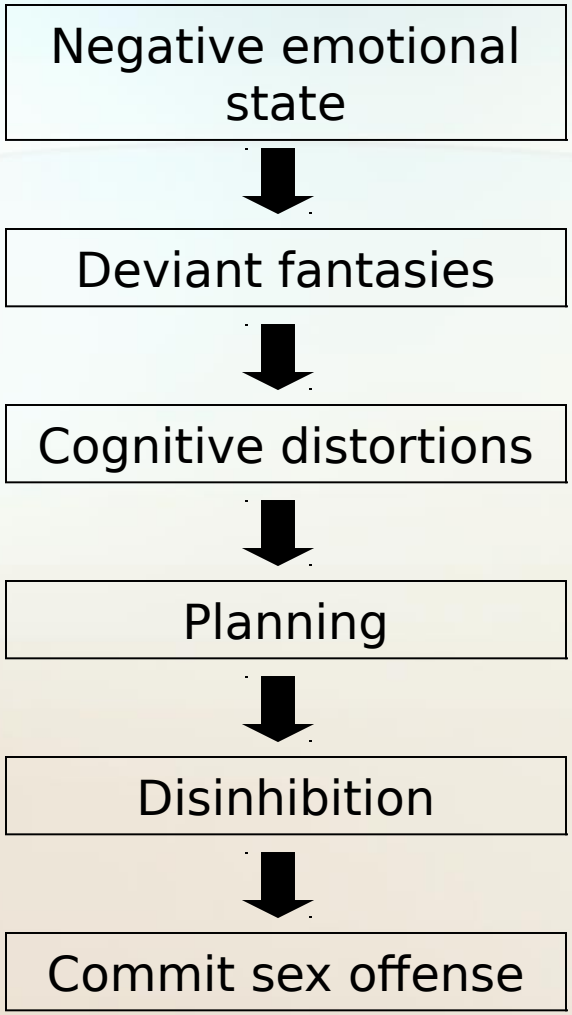
Cultural influences

Confluence Model

- **Motivators**
- **Disinhibitors**
- **Opportunities**
- **Sexually promiscuous pathway**
- **Hostile masculinity pathway**

(Malamuth, 1996; Malamuth et al., 1991, 1993)

Relapse Prevention



(See e.g., Laws, 1989; Laws et al., 2000, Pithers et al., 1983)

Self-Regulation Model

- **Avoidant-Passive**
- **Avoidant-Active**
- **Approach-Automatic**
- **Approach-Explicit**

(Ward & Hudson, 1998, 2000; Ward et al., 1998)

Pathways Model

- **Multiple dysfunctional mechanisms pathway**
- **Deviant sexual scripts pathway**
- **Intimacy deficits pathway**
- **Emotional dysregulation pathway**
- **Antisocial cognitions pathway**

(Ward & Seigert, 2002; Ward et al., 2006)